Research and Development in Biotechnology

1626. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of scientific institutions, universities and colleges engaged in research and development in bio-technology in each state in the country;

(b) how many of these have been sanctioned grants by Government for R&D in biotechnology; and

(c) the number of such institutions which are located in the State of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) Under the aegis of various scientific agencies like CSIR, DST, DBT, Atomic Energy, Ministry of Health, ICMR and ICAR as also State level institutions and agricultural universities, a large number of them (about 225) are engaged on various aspects of research and development in biotechnology, which encompases the fields of agriculture, medical research, industry, environment etc. The research work generally covers traditional areas of botany, zoology, agriculture, veterinary sciences etc., since the area of bio-technology is relatively new and its application is highly knowledge intensive, particularly aspects of genetic engineering. These institutions receive grants from various scientific agencies and State level organisations. The Department of Biotechnology receives project proposals from various scientist and research institutions from all over country which are examined on the basis of peer review mechanisms, expert opinions and site visit Based on these, grants for R&D projects are sanctioned.

The number of such institutions located in the State of Madhya Pradesh is approximately 17 which includes universities, veterinary colleges and research laboratories of central agencies; these are located at Bhopal, Gwalior, Indore; Rewa; Sagar, Mhow, Jabalpur etc. These institutions are receiving government funding from some of the Central and State agencies and departments for research in related fields of biotechnology which is a new and emerging area.

Computerisation of Urdu

1627. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answers to Unstarred Questions 1683 and 1698 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st August, 1991 and state:

(a) whether any progress has been undertaken for computer analysis, education and research in Urdu;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) Graphics and Intelligence based Script Technology (GIST) developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune, an autonomous Society under the Department of Electronics provides capability for Urdu interface with computers.

(c) Does not arise.

Foreign visit of former development Commissioner (PI)

1628. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 304 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th July, 1991 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during each of his foreign visits Former Development Commissioner (PI) extracted money from companies in India and abroad;